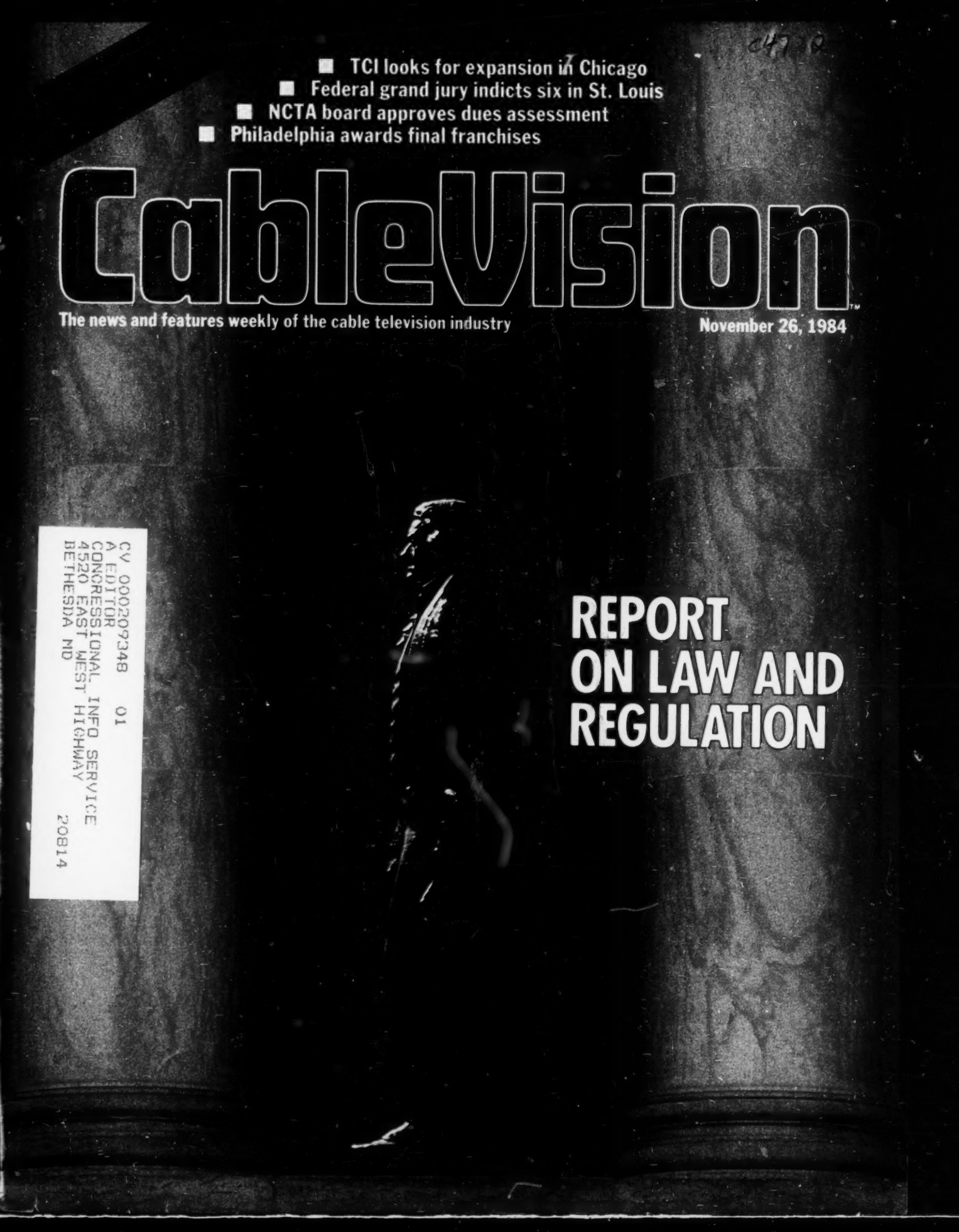
- TCI looks for expansion in Chicago
- Federal grand jury indicts six in St. Louis
- NCTA board approves dues assessment
- Philadelphia awards final franchises

CableVision™

The news and features weekly of the cable television industry

November 26, 1984



REPORT ON LAW AND REGULATION

CV 000209348 01
A EDITOR
CONGRESSIONAL INFO SERVICE
4520 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA MD 20814

The Western Show convention logo's promise of 'progress' will be backed by exhibits of the latest in industry technology.

Leading the week.....11-20

Western Show ready

Western Show organizers expect a crowd of about 8,500 at their annual event in two weeks. They also believe operators will arrive elated over the new cable legislation approval but increasingly concerned about the impact of telcos, per-sub fees and VCRs on the industry.

HBO dismissals

More than 100 HBO employees were due to be dismissed last week. The firings come as a result of continued austerity moves since the recent dismissal of former Chairman Frank Biondi.

St. Louis scandal

Six individuals, including the president of the Board of Aldermen, have been indicted by a federal grand jury in St. Louis on charges of extortion in connection with that city's cable franchising process.

TCI & Big Shoulders

TCI is looking to expand its involvement in the cabling of Chicago by joining in builds in Areas I and V. If things move forward as planned, TCI will have substantial operating control in three of the city's five franchise areas.

Maximize benefits

Three new committees have been charged with examining how to maximize the benefits of basic cable services at the system level. The committees are the result of a recent extraordinary gathering of top MSO and program service executives in St. Louis.

Sections

Programming.....34
Star Ship Stereo takes off at its first affiliate, while a North Carolina government agency's interconnect venture attracts attention from other states. Also, Robert DiMatteo reviews HBO's study of Vietnam veterans, *Soldiers In Hiding*.

Marketing/Advertising.....40
Tele-Communications Inc. commissioned research firm Wilson and Mason Inc. to determine if its investment in producing its in-house *Cabletime* cable listings guide is worth it. The results? Subscribers gave the guide high marks.

Business & Finance.....56
Cambridge, Mass., may award its franchise early in 1985. After citizens rejected municipal ownership in a public referendum, the city has received amended applications from three groups and has scheduled public hearings in January.

New Ventures.....64
NYT Cable is bucking the trend in the industry and pursuing two-way interactive service so it can offer its 119,500 subscribers a movie-based pay-per-view service.

Government & Law.....68
Amid the general euphoria surrounding passage of the cable deregulation bill, conventioneers at the recent Atlantic Show who attended a seminar on business communications encountered a sober assessment of the regulatory barriers still confronting the industry on the data front.

About the cover

The Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., is a stirring reminder of our nation's history and our governmental process. Washington Bureau Chief Paul McCloskey's *PLUS* article on law and regulation in the cable industry begins on page 43. Photography by Jerry Downs.

Departments

In the News.....25
Stock Market.....59
Technology.....71
Events.....72
People.....75
Classified.....78
Advertisers' Index.....82
Cable Stats.....86
Mediascan.....90
Parting Words.....90

Cable Industry Growth Chart

YEAR	TVHH	Homes Passed	Basic Subscribers	% of TVHH	Pay Subscribers	% of TVHH
1990E	93,900,000	81,783,000	50,706,000	54	32,959,000	35
1989E	92,800,000	79,109,000	48,256,000	52	30,883,000	33
1988E	91,000,000	75,833,000	45,500,000	50	28,665,000	32
1987E	89,300,000	71,137,000	41,971,000	47	26,022,000	30
1986E	87,800,000	68,121,000	39,510,000	45	24,101,000	27
1985E	86,000,000	64,500,000	36,120,000	42	21,672,000	25
1984E	84,600,000	59,989,000	32,994,000	39	19,764,000	23
1983	83,500,000	53,641,000	30,300,000	36	17,877,000	21
1982	82,800,000	49,100,000	28,200,000	34	15,898,000	19
1981	80,700,000	44,000,000	22,596,000	28	11,804,000	15
1980	77,800,000	37,300,000	18,672,000	24	7,780,000	10
1979	76,300,000	32,700,000	16,023,000	21	5,341,000	7
1978	74,500,000	27,200,000	14,155,000	19	2,980,000	4
1977	73,300,000	24,894,000	13,194,000	18	1,466,000	2
1976	71,114,000	21,989,000	12,094,000	17	505,000	1
1975	69,600,000	19,900,000	11,136,000	16	N/A	N/A

Source: CableProFile Data Base, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH

Cable barometer

Television households (TVHH).....84,233,330

Homes passed by cable (HP).....58,274,000

Percent of TVHH passed by cable 69.2%

Basic cable subs.....32,761,000

Percent of TVHH with basic cable 38.9%

Percent of HP with basic cable 56.2%

Pay cable subs.....19,624,000

Percent of TVHH with pay cable 23.3%

Percent of HP with pay cable 33.7%

Percent of basic subs with pay cable.....59.9%

Figures are as of Aug. 31, 1984.
Source: CableProFile Data Base, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH

Satellite lineup

Satcom III-R (RCA Americom)	Transponder
AP News Cable	6
ARTS and Entertainment	1
Bonneville's Easy Listening (audio)	3
Cable Jazz Network (audio service)	8
CBN Cable Network	8
Cable News Network	14
CNN Headline News	15
Cinemax (East)	20
(West)	23
C-SPAN	19
Dow Jones Cable News (text) (Southern Satellite Systems)	6
EPG (United Video/text)	3
ESPN	7
Eternal Word Television Network	18
Financial News Network	4
Genesis Storytime	8
HBO (East)	24
(West)	13
HTN	16
Keyfax (text)	6
The Learning Channel	16
Lifestyle (United Video/audio service)	3
Lifetime	17
Love Sounds (audio service)	8
Moody Broadcasting Network (United Video/audio service)	3
The Movie Channel (East)	5
MSN—The Information Channel	22
MTV	11
National Jewish Television	18
New England Sports Network	13
Nice and Easy (audio service)	8
Nickelodeon	1
Professional Education Network	16
PTL	2
Reuters News View (text)	18
(SSS)	6
Satellite Radio Network (audio service)	2
SCAN (audio service)	6
Showtime (West)	10
*SPN	6
Sports Time Cable Network	4
Star Ship Stereo	6,8
UPI Cable News (text)	3
UPI Customized Cable News (text)	6
USA Cable Network	9
(during blackout)	22
Video Concert Hall	16
The Weather Channel	21
WFMT (United Video/audio service)	3
WGN (United Video)	3
WTBS (SSS)	6

Satcom IV (RCA Americom)	Transponder
American Movie Classics	2
Biznet (Viacom)	15
Bravo (ESPN)	2
In-Touch	3
National Christian Network	7
Pacific Cable Network	24
Playboy Channel	4
Santa Fe Communications	23
Satellite Jazz Network, KKGO-FM	17
SCAN	3
The Silent Network	16
SportsVision	9
Star Ship Stereo	3
Trinity Broadcasting Network	17
WPIX	19

Comstar D-4 (AT&T/GTE)	Transponder
Country Music Television	9H
ON TV	4H,11H

Galaxy I (Hughes)	Transponder
BET	17
Business Times	9
CBN	11
Cinemax	19
CMC	8
CNN	7
CNN Headline News	8
C-SPAN	13
The Disney Channel	4,24
GalaVision (SIN)	20
HBO (East)	23
Home Team Sports	12
The Movie Channel (East)	10
(West)	14
Nashville Network	2
Showtime (East)	5
SIN	6
SSS Cabletext	18
Turner Broadcasting	7,18
WOR-TV	15

Spacenet I (GTE)	Transponder
ACTS	8
Bonneville	2
Hospital Satellite Network	6
Landmark	(Lower half) 16 (72 MHz C-band)
SIN	(Upper half) 16 (72 MHz C-band)

* As of Jan. 1, 1985

Note: A company name in parentheses following a service or network designates the transponder owner.

Source: International Thomson Communications Inc.

Top 100 MSOs

Rank	Multiple system operator	Basic subs	
*1.	Tele-Communications	3,300,000	(10/84)
2.	American Television and Communications	2,400,000	(5/84)
3.	Group W Cable	2,007,000	(7/84)
4.	Cox Cable Communications	1,515,423	(7/84)
5.	Storer Cable Communications	1,440,000	(6/84)
6.	Warner Amex Cable Communications	1,346,000	(10/84)
7.	Times Mirror Cable Television	981,304	(6/84)
8.	Continental Cablevision	896,000	(7/84)
9.	Newhouse Broadcasting	843,649	(5/84)
10.	Viacom Cablevision	758,000	(6/84)
11.	United Cable Television	679,000	(7/84)
12.	Sammons Communications	594,000	(5/84)
13.	Rogers Cablesystems	564,497	(7/84)
14.	Cablevision Systems Development	532,000	(7/84)
15.	Comcast Cable Communications	463,000	(7/84)
16.	Telecable Corp	411,606	(6/84)
17.	Heritage Communications	407,195	(7/84)
18.	Jones Intercable	395,565	(7/84)
19.	Capital Cities Cable	357,435	(7/84)
20.	UA Cablesystems	346,000	(7/84)
21.	General Electric Cablevision	325,056	(7/84)
22.	Wometco Cable TV	295,247	(7/84)
23.	Century Communications	285,000	(7/84)
24.	Prime Cable	272,788	(6/84)
25.	Daniels and Associates	262,062	(7/84)
26.	Multimedia Cablevision	257,741	(7/84)
27.	Centel Cable Television	248,751	(7/84)
28.	TCA Group	245,056	(7/84)
29.	MacLean Hunter	234,327	(7/84)
30.	American Cablesystems	229,934	(10/84)
31.	Scripps-Howard	199,466	(7/84)
32.	Service Electric Cable TV	189,500	(4/84)
33.	Colony Communications	187,116	(7/84)
34.	Adelphia Communications	186,870	(7/84)
35.	Cable Vision Industries	182,954	(7/84)
36.	TeleScripps Cable	181,182	(7/84)
37.	Rollins Cableview	178,638	(7/84)
38.	Communications Service	175,000	(9/83)
39.	Cabientertainment	170,815	(6/84)
40.	Tribune Cable Communications	169,391	(7/84)
41.	Western Communications	148,323	(7/84)
42.	Harte Hanks Communications	146,294	(7/84)
43.	McDonald Group	139,585	(6/83)
44.	Adams-Russell Communications	130,539	(7/84)
45.	Harron Communications	129,866	(7/84)
46.	Midcontinent Cable Systems	126,881	(6/84)
47.	McCaw Communications	120,093	(7/84)
48.	Midwest Video	118,102	(9/83)
49.	Sutton Capital	117,204	(6/84)
50.	Buckeye Cablevision	116,379	(7/84)
51.	Falcon Communications	112,000	(7/84)
52.	Televents	108,772	(7/84)
53.	Armstrong Utilities	105,945	(7/84)
54.	Harris Cable	105,719	(6/84)
55.	Communications Systems	94,655	(4/84)
56.	Lenfest Group	90,278	(6/84)
57.	Summit Communications	90,019	(7/84)
58.	Greater Media	88,120	(6/84)
59.	Multi-Channel TV Cable	87,755	(4/84)
60.	U.S. Cable	85,500	(6/84)
61.	McClatchy Newspapers	82,733	(7/84)
62.	King Videocable	81,074	(7/84)
63.	The Essex Group	79,884	(7/84)
64.	National Telecommunications	76,450	(3/84)
65.	Perry Cable TV	75,820	(7/84)
66.	Palmer Communications	75,644	(7/84)
67.	Acton	74,177	(7/84)
68.	WEHCO Video	74,200	(7/84)
69.	Ultracom	73,926	(7/84)
70.	Omega Communications	68,000	(4/84)
71.	Susquehanna Broadcasting	67,602	(7/84)
72.	Cable Management Associates	65,500	(7/84)
73.	Sonic Cabe	64,522	(7/84)
74.	Pencor Services	63,450	(5/84)
75.	Booth Communications	63,184	(7/84)
76.	Wabash Cablevision	61,500	(7/84)
77.	Omni Cable TV	55,659	(7/84)
78.	Selkirk Communications	53,600	(7/84)
79.	Marsh Media	53,224	(7/84)
80.	The Daily Press	52,000	(6/84)
81.	Simmons Communications	47,406	(7/84)
82.	United Video Management	47,333	(7/84)
83.	Wisconsin Cablevision and Radio	46,449	(7/84)
84.	Matrix Enterprises	45,339	(7/84)
85.	Helicon	42,699	(7/84)
86.	Cencom Cable Associates	41,434	(7/84)
87.	Chambers Communications	41,236	(7/84)
88.	Donrey Cablevision	40,523	(5/84)
89.	Whitney Communications	40,504	(7/84)
90.	Combined Cable	40,051	(7/84)
91.	Joseph Gans	39,927	(4/84)
92.	Marcus Communications	37,495	(7/84)
93.	New England Cablevision	36,858	(7/84)
94.	Masada	36,323	(7/84)
95.	National Cablesystems	35,704	(7/84)
96.	Multivision Group	34,544	(7/84)
97.	Cable Holdings	33,711	(6/84)
98.	First Carolina Communications	33,274	(7/84)
99.	Star CATV Investment	32,092	(7/84)
100.	Consolidated Cable System	27,891	(7/84)

Source: Subscriber counts are provided by MSOs to International Thomson Communications Inc.
*Figure does not include Tele-Media acquisition; last reported basic subscriber count for Tele-Media was 277,450 (12/83).

Top 100 systems

Rank	Location	Operator	Basic subs	
1.	San Diego, CA	Cox Cable	246,799	(7/84)
2.	Woodbury (Long Island), NY	Cablevision Systems	233,000	(7/84)
3.	San Antonio, TX	Rogers Cablesystems	190,618	(7/84)
4.	Manhattan, NY	ATC	187,900	(12/83)
5.	Houston, TX	Warner Amex Cable	184,500	(6/84)
6.	Florida Division	ATC	179,800	(7/84)
7.	East Orange, NJ	MacLean Hunter	163,527	(7/84)
8.	Wayne, NJ	UA Cablesystems	130,300	(7/84)
9.	Cincinnati, OH	Warner Amex	127,000	(7/84)
10.	Englewood, CO	United Cable	118,245	(7/84)
11.	Audubon, NJ	Independent	116,120	(7/84)
12.	Tulsa, OK	United Cable	115,787	(6/84)
13.	Rochester, NY	ATC	108,600	(12/83)
14.	Baltimore County, MD	Comcast	107,900	(6/84)
15.	Tidewater (Norfolk), VA	Cox Cable	106,262	(7/84)
16.	San Juan, PR	Harris Cable	105,719	(6/84)
17.	Erie County, NY	Prime Cable	104,970	(7/84)
18.	Atlanta, GA	Prime Cabe	103,945	(7/84)
19.	San Jose, CA	Gill Industries	102,700	(7/84)
20.	Austin, TX	ATC	98,900	(12/83)
21.	Jacksonville, FL	Continental	98,177	(7/84)
22.	Honolulu, HI	ATC	97,100	(7/84)
23.	Seattle, WA	Group W Cable	96,500	(7/84)
24.	Toledo, OH	Buckey Cablevision	96,087	(7/84)
25.	Central Islip (Long Island), NY	Viacom Cablevision	95,000	(6/84)
26.	Memphis, TN	ATC	94,300	(12/63)
27.	Jefferson Parish/Kenner, LA	Cox Cable	93,005	(7/84)
28.	Manhattan, NY	Group W Cable	92,150	(7/84)
29.	San Francisco, CA	Viacom Cablevision	86,700	(6/84)
30.	Dallas, TX	Warner Amex	83,240	(7/84)
31.	Wilmington, DE	Rollins Cableview	81,800	(7/84)
32.	Grand Rapids, MI	General Electric	80,685	(7/84)
33.	Wichita, KS	Multimedia Cablevision	80,158	(7/84)
34.	San Diego, CA	ATC	78,900	(12/83)
35.	Seattle, WA	Viacom Cablevision	78,000	(6/84)
36.	Phoenix, AZ	Times Mirror	75,761	(6/84)
37.	Los Angeles, CA	Falcon Communications	75,000	(7/84)
38.	Flint, MI	Comcast Cable	74,500	(6/84)
39.	New Orleans, LA	Cox Cable	73,919	(7/84)
40.	Pittsburgh, PA	TCI	73,835	(7/84)
41.	Louisville, KY	Times Mirror	65,952	(6/84)
42.	South Bend, IN	Heritage	67,223	(6/84)
43.	Broward County, FL	Storer Cable	67,034	(6/84)
44.	Tacoma, WA	Independent	66,113	(5/84)
45.	Richmond/Henrico County, VA	Continental Cable	66,000	(6/84)
46.	Omaha, NE	Cox Cable	65,370	(7/84)
47.	Baton Rouge, LA	Daniels & Associates	64,989	(6/84)
48.	South Texas, TX	Heritage	64,629	(6/84)
49.	Charlotte, NC	ATC	64,600	(12/83)
50.	Santa Monica, CA	Group W Cable	64,600	(7/84)
51.	Cleveland Heights, OH	Viacom	64,000	(6/84)
52.	Jefferson County, KY	Storer	63,845	(6/84)
53.	Pompano Beach, FL	American Cablesystems	63,145	(5/84)
54.	Columbus, OH	Warner Amex	62,119	(4/84)
55.	Buffalo, NY	TCI	61,000	(3/84)
56.	Akron, OH	Warner Amex	60,772	(4/84)
57.	Boston Complex (Malden), MA	Warner Amex	60,327	(4/84)
58.	Indianapolis, IN	Wabash Cablevision	60,300	(5/84)
59.	St. Petersburg, FL	Group W Cable	60,300	(7/84)
60.	Clearwater, FL	Newhouse	60,000	(7/84)
61.	Allentown, PA	Service Electric Cable	60,000	(1/84)
62.	Kansas City, MO	ATC	59,100	(12/83)
63.	El Paso, TX	Group W Cable	58,600	(7/84)
64.	Syracuse Suburbs, NY	New Channels	58,528	(7/84)
65.	Las Vegas, NV	Times Mirror	58,448	(6/84)
66.	Monterey, CA	Western	58,363	(7/84)
67.	Santa Barbara, CA	Cox Cable	58,292	(7/84)
68.	Snohomish County, WA	Viacom	58,000	(6/84)
69.	Chicago Suburbs (Oak Park), IL	Cablevision System	57,000	(7/84)
70.	Harrisburg, PA	Sammons Communications	57,000	(5/84)
71.	Sarasota, FL	Storer Cable	56,913	(6/84)
72.	Hartford, CT	Times Mirror	56,794	(7/84)
73.	Nashville, TN	Viacom	56,000	(6/84)
74.	Des Moines, IA	Heritage	55,525	(6/84)
75.	Knoxsville, TN	TeleScripps Cable	55,377	(7/84)
76.	Madison, WI	Midcontinent Cable/TCI	55,375	(7/84)
77.	Allentown, PA	Independent	55,000	(3/84)
78.	New Haven, CT	Storer Cable	54,762	(6/84)
79.	Boston, MA	Cablevision	54,520	(7/84)
80.	Binghamton, NY	New Channels	54,334	(7/84)
81.	Bridgeport, CT	Cablevision Systems/ Scripps-Howard	54,000	(7/84)
82.	Albany, GA	Storer Cable	53,782	(6/84)
83.	Columbus, OH	Coaxial Communications	53,424	(7/84)
84.	Chattanooga, TN	TeleScripps Cable	53,202	(7/84)
85.	Worcester (Leicester), MA	Greater Media	53,139	(6/84)
86.	Charleston, SC	Storer	53,002	(6/84)
87.	Westchester County (New Rochelle), NY	UA Cablesystems	52,800	(7/84)
88.	Port Arthur, TX	TCI	52,470	(12/83)
89.	Canton, OH	Warner Amex	52,367	(4/84)
90.	Oklahoma City, OK	Cox Cable	52,089	(7/84)
91.	Escondido/San Diego, CA	Times Mirror	51,978	(7/84)
92.	New Britian, CT	United Cable	51,619	(7/84)
93.	Shreveport, LA	ATC	51,400	(12/83)
94.	San Rafael/Marin County, CA	Viacom	50,900	(7/84)
95.	Jackson, MS	ATC	50,700	(12/83)
96.	Reading, PA	ATC	50,000	(12/83)
97.	Albuquerque, NM	Tribune Cable	49,877	(7/84)
98.	Winston-Salem, NC	Summit Communications	49,415	(7/84)
99.	Lexington, KY	Telecable Corp	49,078	(6/84)
100.	Birmingham, AL	ATC	48,000	(6/84)

Source: Subscriber counts are provided by MSOs and individual systems to International Thomson Communications Inc.